

The White Friars
Sandwich.

Annual Report for year 1905.
To the Urban Sanitary Authority of Sandwich.

Gentlemen.

I herewith hand you the Annual Report on the Public Health for the year ending 31st December 1905. It concerns The Sanitary District of Sandwich, having an area of 956 acres and a population (according to the last census) of 3170 persons which I think may form the basis of calculation in compiling statistics for the year 1905. The population is distributed amongst the four Parishes as follows: St Peter's 1088, St Mary's 1092, St Clement's 956, St Bartholomew's 34.

During the year 35 deaths have been reported (including one caused by accident) with this deduction 34 deaths resulted from disease and venial causes - This number yields a death rate of 10.7 per thousand which is an exceedingly satisfactory percentage in an Urban District such as this - amply justifying its claim already established as a Town in which the existing conditions of health are very favourable not only to its permanent residents but also to a considerable body of working men and their families now living in it and engaged in the various works in progress in this neighbourhood.

The deaths were distributed in the various Parishes as follows - St Peter's 16, St Mary's 11, St Clement's 6, St Bartholomews 1.

In point of time - 7 occurred during the first quarter of the year, 9 in the second, 11 in the third, and 8 in the last quarter.

The highest mortality being in the third and the lowest in the first quarter: whereas in the previous year the highest rate was in the first and the lowest in the last quarter.

The following table shows the number of deaths during the last five years.

1901	47
1902	46
1903	39
1904.	40
1905	35

The number of births registered in the year was 58 (33 male - 25 female) this gives the low birth rate of 18.2 per thousand as compared with 22 per thousand in 1904.

Table of births registered during past five years.

1901	84.
1902	76
1903	67
1904.	70
1905.	58

The following were given as causes of death
and extracted from the Registrars Reports

Heart Disease	6
Phthisis	3
Other tubercular disease	1
Cancer	4
Bronchitis	3
Alcoholism & Cirrhosis	1
Premature birth & weakness from birth	2
Accident	1
Convulsions	1
Apoplexy	1
Chronic Rheumatoid Arthritis	1
Senile Degeneration ^{& Syncope}	<u>11</u>
	35.

Heart disease was the cause of rather more deaths during the year than usual, otherwise by far the greater number died from the effects of old age, these were eleven in number, of which eight died between 80 and 90 years of age (the oldest a male reaching 90)

Five deaths only occurred in infants 12 months or under - the causes were premature birth 1 Bronchitis 2 - convulsions 1. congenital weakness 1. These causes are more of a satisfactory nature than is usual, and the number less - thirteen having been recorded in the previous year.

The number of cases notified under the Infectious Diseases Act was nine (a further improvement on last year) six of these were Erysipelas two Scarlet Fever and one Diphtheria.

The Erysipelas occurred in five different persons only - one having a second attack after a few months interval - The first case of Scarlet Fever was in March and developed in a School boy who on the following day was sent to Isolation Hospital and the school premises thoroughly disinfected - no further extension took place - no cause could be discovered as to the origin - there were no other cases in the Town and the boy had not been away or near anyone who was unwell.

The second case appeared in September in a servant girl and apparently originated in her - The sanitary surroundings were satisfactory and she was not aware of having been near anyone suffering from any illness - she was removed and isolated (as far as possible) and the usual disinfection took place, since then no other cases have occurred.

Diphtheria was reported in the Town once only and on that occasion was imported - the child having arrived the previous day unwell from Ashford developing the symptoms within 48 hours. on enquiry it was found that several cases of Diphtheria had occurred at her home in other members of the family a few years previously - no doubt the original causes were still existing, affecting those susceptible

The Medical Officer of Health at Ashford was communicated with and precautions and disinfection strictly enforced in both districts - Happily no extension occurred, and the Town has also been free of this disease ever since. No deaths have occurred from any zymotic disease during the twelve months - and at the present time The Town is absolutely free from all such complaints.

In May we were visited with an outbreak of measles as also was the adjoining district - as the winds were cold, weather treacherous and the smaller children ~~sickening~~ sickening for measles rapidly developed Bronchitic and Pneumonic symptoms, I thought it advisable - in the hope of lessening the severity of the Respiratory symptoms and perhaps of limiting the number attacked - to advise that the Schools should be closed - which was accordingly done for one month - They were reopened in June with marked improvement in health and with safety.

During November and December there was also a very general epidemic of Mumps but somewhat mild in degree, at the present time this appears to have died out. The weekly Reports concerning Urban Notifiable Diseases have been regularly sent to the Local Government Board and their General Reports received during the year

and arrangements made to continue the same system during 1906.

The various Slaughter Houses, Cowsheds and Dairies have been duly inspected - the removal of the Moat Sole Dairy cows to a shed outside the Town is of great public benefit, especially ^{to} those who live in the vicinity. There has been no overcrowding in any of the Lodging Houses of the Town.

Eighteen complaints have been received by the Inspector of Nuisances during the year on inspection he found them chiefly due to defective drains and gullies - offensive materials allowed to remain in backyards, and one case of general uncleanness; all of which causes were removed when next visited and no further legal action found necessary in any.

I may state that with the exception of one private case (already referred to) it has not been found necessary to transport any infectious case to the Rural Isolation Hospital but that particular case (occurring in a school) testified to the extreme usefulness of such an Institution and certainly minimised the great risk of Infection from that disease.

All the main drains are reported to have worked well with the exception of the Bulwark - which has now been re-laid - and all the Street drains accessible have been flushed weekly as it is absolutely essential in many cases - until circumstances permit of the new scheme being proceeded with.

The Water Supply during the year has been very satisfactory and there is every prospect of an increased demand during the forthcoming year to a Rural District about to be developed.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

John W. Harrison

M. O. H.

9th February 1906.

To the Port Sanitary Authority.
Sandwich.

10th February 1906.

Annual Report for year 1905.

Gentlemen

The Harbour Master reports that 190 local or coastwise vessels entered the Haven during the year - carrying general cargoes & coal from the North also building materials of all kinds landed at the new Guildford Wharf.

Eighteen vessels also arrived from Foreign ports - twelve of these being British, five Dutch, and one German - of the above eighteen vessels, 8, came from Newport - 6 with granite. 2 with Bark - 5 arrived from Rotterdam - all with granite - 4 from Guernsey - also with granite - and one from Hamburg - with oil cake -

All the vessels from foreign Ports are systematically inspected on arrival and without exception were found to be clean and to have had no illness aboard.

As has been the case for the past three years, the weekly Reports from the Sanitary Authority have been forwarded throughout the year to the Central Sanitary Authority.

I remain gentlemen.

Yours obedient servant.

John W. Thompson

